



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION  
DETROIT

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

Susy Avery  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Rick Snyder  
Governor  
State of Michigan  
State Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Snyder,

Pursuant to Public Act 1 of 1968, wherein it is stated that the Michigan Women's Commission shall submit an Annual Report to the Governor including recommendations based on its studies, we are pleased to submit to you the 2012 Annual Report of the Michigan Women's Commission for the calendar year of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

The Michigan Women's Commission addressed each of the following quality indicators through our advocacy, programming, publications, and information and referral activities. We worked to accomplish our statutory goals, and in so doing, helped to improve the quality of life for Michigan women by taking the following actions:

1. Established a working group of Commissioners to determine how we can help Michigan's women veterans. Led by Chair Anne Thompson, LCDR USN, Ret., a Navy veteran, these Commissioners have been meeting over the past months and have decided on a course of action in 2013 that will include:
  - (a) Surveying Michigan women veterans to help identify their needs and inform them of existing state programs;
  - (b) Composing and sending letters to Michigan college and university presidents requesting information on women veterans enrolled in their institutions;
  - (c) Beginning a mutual education process with Michigan's Congressional delegation.Partnering with Jason Allen, Senior Deputy of Veterans Affairs has proved to be mutually beneficial. We were pleased to be involved with his initiative with the Michigan Dental Association Veterans Awareness Project. In addition, one of our Commissioners, Judge Sue Dobrich, helped spearhead the efforts to promote more Veterans Courts in Michigan.
2. Another working group of Commissioners was formed to study business assistance and funding options for women-owned businesses. With the help of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and our Vice Chair, Chris Etienne, who mentored an intern from North Central Michigan College, our website now displays an extensive list of links that provide funding and business assistance options. In addition, this group is looking at a re-design of our website that will allow more user-friendly access to updated information and a new 'E-Blast' distribution list that can be utilized to notify members of new information on the Michigan Women's Commission social media sites as well as upcoming events and other business-related news.

3. With the assistance of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force and utilizing Task Force materials, our Human Trafficking Awareness working group has begun training to understand the dimensions of human trafficking involving children in Michigan. These Commissioners are currently developing a list of speakers who can make at least ten presentations to groups in Michigan regarding human trafficking involving children. One of our Commissioners, Cathleen Knauf, formed a regional Task Force for an awareness campaign in the Berrien County region. The Michigan Women's Commission helped facilitate the Human Trafficking Conference sponsored by Cooley Law School.
4. The Michigan Women's Commission, in partnership with MI-ACE Network for Women in Higher Education and the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Preparation, held a "Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference in 2012 that encouraged college juniors, as young leaders, to pursue 'STEM' careers. This one-day event in Grand Rapids saw the largest ever number of college women, from all over the State of Michigan, participate. Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds enthusiastically welcomed participants and Commission Knauf provided mentorship opportunities. This conference was consistently rated 'excellent' in the follow-up evaluation.
5. We maintain our social media activity as a high priority and were honored to learn that our 'friend' metrics increased 215% over the past year.
6. The Michigan Women's Commission now acknowledges, with letters of congratulation, exemplary Michigan women who have received recognition in their various fields of pursuit. The women we congratulated in 2012 represented many fields including defense, publishing, nursing, education, business, and accounting. In addition, we participated in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame induction of our former Director, Judy Karandjeff.
7. We have been active in the National Association of Commissions for Women. Elizabeth Thompson was elected the new Secretary of that organization.
8. The Michigan Women's Commission's website now displays a 'Dashboard' dedicated to transparency and ongoing detailed reporting of our initiatives' progress. It is the goal of the Michigan Women's Commission to inform the public as to the continuing progress of reaching the goals that have been set by our Commissioners.
9. In addition, we answered, and when appropriate, referred all web, email, and phone inquiries received by the Michigan Women's Commission in a timely manner.

On behalf of the Commission and staff, we want to express our appreciation for your commitment to improving the quality of life for Michigan Women.

Finally, we would like to recognize the support of many state agencies, the partnerships with many organizations, and your Executive staff's assistance in furthering the mission of the Michigan Women's Commission.

Sincerely,



Anne (Brook) Thompson,  
LCDR USN, Ret.  
Chair



Chris Etienne  
Vice Chair



Susy Avery  
Executive Director